

OECA PROGRAM CHANGES

BACKGROUND:

- **Model of shared governance with states:**
 - o Issued the final policy on [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/compliance/enhancing-effective-partnerships-between-epa-and-states-civil-enforcement-and-compliance"](https://www.epa.gov/compliance/enhancing-effective-partnerships-between-epa-and-states-civil-enforcement-and-compliance)] to set consistent expectations for joint planning, work sharing, and enhanced communication.
 - o Developed a new measure to encourage and track EPA “assists” to state-lead actions on enforcement/compliance.
- **2021-2023 National Compliance Initiatives:**
 - o The National Compliance Initiative (NCIs) align priorities with the Agency strategic plan and focus on environmental problems, not specific industry sectors.
 - o After extensive outreach and input, OECA selected six priority areas for which the enforcement program will have the lead for the Agency; and one more focus area, Lead, where we will be contributing to the Agency’s goal of reducing childhood lead exposures and associated health impacts.
- **Policy of notifying facilities of inspection results in a more timely fashion:**
 - o Intended to increase certainty and speed of correction of violations.
 - o Issued [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-07/documents/inspectionreportpolicy.pdf"](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-07/documents/inspectionreportpolicy.pdf)], which directs inspectors to flag compliance concerns with the facility at the time of inspection.
 - o Under a new measure, EPA will prepare most inspection reports and provide them to facilities within 70 days of an inspection.
- **Use of self-audits and self-disclosure to achieve compliance:**
 - o Issued [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/new-owner-clean-air-act-audit-program-oil-and-natural-gas-exploration-and-production"](https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/new-owner-clean-air-act-audit-program-oil-and-natural-gas-exploration-and-production)].
- **Realigned the Regions:**
 - o EPA has created an Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division in each Region that will better integrate regional enforcement resources and make it easier for OECA to work with the Regions on enforcement and compliance assurance matters.

KEY POINTS:

- Moved to a model of shared governance with states.
- Selected [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-06/documents/2020-2023ncimemo.pdf"](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-06/documents/2020-2023ncimemo.pdf)].
- Set policy of notifying facilities of inspection results in a more timely fashion to increase certainty and speed of correction of violations
- Reemphasized the use of self-audits and self-disclosure to achieve compliance.
- Realigned the Regions to support National Programs.

TALKING POINT:

- We have adopted program changes to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our enforcement and compliance assurance work.